

PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners will be held on Monday, May 24, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the District office, Pascoag 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.

Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek, Commissioners Thomas Partridge, Dennis Whitman, Brian Choiniere and Adrien Trudeau

Members Absent: William Mageau (excused)

Also in Attendance: Theodore Garille, General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel

Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment

No comment at this time.

3. Committee Comments

- o Facilities Subcommittee-Mr. Whitman stated that the Facilities Subcommittee reviewed the bids for waste removal and would like to recommend to the Board the Waste Haulers bid. Also there is a retired bucket truck (22 years old) and the Facilities Subcommittee is in agreement with management that it should be donated to NEPPA for training purposes provided they sign a hold harmless agreement.**
- o Water and Finance Subcommittee-Mr. Palmisciano stated that the Water and Finance Subcommittee met to discuss the water department's net losses in the past few years. There were several ideas that were brought up and the Subcommittee will meet again to go over the results from the ideas.**

4. Good and Welfare of the District

A. PUC Data Request – Docket No. 1725

Ms. Allaire reviewed the customer shut off information. The average customer balance is around \$337.83. Ms. Allaire stated that 4 residential standard customers were disconnected in the month of April. Pascoag Utility District sent out 603 disconnection notices. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Choiniere seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.

B. Docket No. 4098

This docket is the rulemaking docket for termination of customers. Ms. Allaire stated that the rules have been reworked and simplified. Terms have been changed such as “affordable payment plan” will now be referred to as “a 12 month payment plan”. Standard and restricted customers will have to pay a minimum amount in order to

not be disconnected during and after the moratorium.

C. General Manager Discussion

Mr. Palmisciano would like to appoint a three member subcommittee to interview each General Manager candidate. Mr. Partridge, Ms. Polacek and Mr. Palmisciano were selected for this subcommittee.

D. Forestry Unit

The forestry unit has arrived and will be lettered next week. Two pole saws came with the unit and a 10 year warranty. The truck was paid for in full.

E. DC Trip

Mr. Garille will be going to Washington DC to attend a summit with Senator Whitehouse on renewable energy. Ms. Polacek asked if Ms. Allaire should be present on the Washington DC trip. Mr. Garille responded that due to budget constraints the Assistant General Managers opted out of the trip.

F. Open Meeting at the Public Utilities Commission

The surge suppressor tariff and the net metering tariff were both approved by the RIPUC last week.

G. WSSMP

Pascoag Utility District's WSSMP has been approved.

H. GNEF Lunch

The Rhode Island Good Neighbor Energy Fund Luncheon will be held on June 3, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

I. BHS Barbeque Reminder

The BHS Conservation projects will be presented on May 28th at 11:30 with a cook out lunch to follow.

J. NEPPA Rodeo

The NEPPA Rodeo will be held on June 16th and 17th with several Pascoag linemen participating.

K. NEPPA Conference

The NEPPA Conference will be held in Providence, RI this year. Pascoag Utility District is the hosting utility. The golf tournament and banquet will be held at the Kirkbrae Country Club.

L. Thank You

Mr. Garille thanked the Board for their sympathy cards and donation to the Lighthouse Hospice Foundation in memory of his sister. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Choiniere.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Finance Subcommittee- April 26, 2010**
- Regular BUC Meeting- April 26, 2010**

Mr. Partridge made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Whitman The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. Unfinished Business

- 10-12 Spruce Mountain Wind Power Update**

Pascoag Utility District is looking to participate in this project. This is a 12MW unit that is being built in Woodstock, ME. Currently there are 12 municipalities involved in this project. The cost per megawatt hours is \$99.25 which includes energy, capacity and recs. Pascoag

has notified ENE of their intention to participate.

- **09-15 Water Meter Project Update**

Ms. Downs updated the Board on the status of the meter project. Currently there are only 4 customers in Cycle 1 who have not called to make an appointment to have their meter installed. Letters will go out to those customers in the next week. Testing of billing software will continue. Once all customers in cycle 1 have had their meters installed and the billing has been tested Cycle 2 letters will go out notifying customers of the meter installations.

- **10-14 Landfill Project**

Mr. Garille wanted to inform the Board that National Grid has bought the entire plant and Pascoag Utility District is no longer involved in the project.

- **10-15 Alternative Heating Project**

Ms. Allaire talked about the Thermal Electric Storage Units that was proposed by Ms. Millar. Ms. Millar followed up with Ms. Allaire last week and they discussed creation of tariffs and designing rates. Coincidentally while Ms. Allaire was doing research for PUD's 125th Anniversary project, she found something on file with the Department of Energy for a Thermal Storage Demonstration Project. Pascoag had done this in conjunction with MMWEC in the early 90's. Pascoag had installed a unit in the office on South Main Street with a DOE grant.

7. New Business

- **10-18 Action Item: Pay off long term debt**

Ms. Allaire stated that there are no penalties associated with paying

off the loan early. Ms. Allaire did call Division and spoke with them about what the District planned on doing and they were in agreement. Mr. Partridge made a motion to:

Pay off long-term debt service with BankRI in the amount of \$284,043.92. This amount will be paid using money from the District's Restricted Fund for Capital Projects and Debt Service. The debt service was incurred in 2004 for the construction of a new equipment garage and remodeling at the District office.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Whiteman. The vote in favor was unanimous.

• 10-19 Action Item: Credit Card Fee Resolution

Ms. Allaire stated that the District used to charge customers to use their credit/debit card and they would have to come in to pay with it. The RIPUC mandated that Pascoag Utility District had to charge the customer to use the credit/debit card but the credit card companies were demanding that PUD not charge a fee. Ms. Allaire had approached Division to see if Pascoag could no longer charge a fee for credit card transactions due to the fact that the more credit transactions we take, the lower the credit card companies make the fees associated with this. Also this is a service that our customers want us to provide.

Mr. Choiniere made a motion to request support from the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission to permanently waive the transaction fee associated with credit and/or debit card transactions for the District's customers, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

• 10-20 Requests for Public Documents and Fulfillment of Requests

Mr. Garille stated that the Pascoag Utility District did receive a request for documents from an attorney in Providence. The requests have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the District's attorney.

8. Financial Reports

A. Electric Department- March 2010

B. Water Department- March 2010

Ms. Allaire reviewed the first quarter of the fiscal year's electric and water department statements. Operating revenue is slightly

Partridge/Trudeau/unanimous

9. Adjournment

Mr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Whitman The vote in favor was unanimous. Chairman Palmisciano adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Board of Utilities council or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captioners) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the District Office at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Brian Choiniere, Secretary
Board of Utility Commissioners

Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary